

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NY PRIORITY

CINCPAC HON HI PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 134688

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:OCON, SEATO

SUBJECT:SEATO - 19TH COUNCIL MEETING

REF: BANGKOK 9434

1. FOLLOWING REPRESENTS DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS ON REFTL
BASED ON PRELIMINARY REVIEW WITHIN DEPARTMENT AND TENTATIVE
SOUNDINGS OF AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, AND UK EMBASSIES HERE.

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FURTHER BACKGROUND ON DEPARTMENT VIEWS CONTAINED IN

NETHERCUT OFFICIAL-INFORMAL TO MASTERS OF JUNE 3.

2. IN GENERAL, IN COURSE OF DISCUSSION AT FORTHCOMING COUNCIL REPS MEETING, EMBASSY SHOULD SEEK TO REACH CONSENSUS OF ALL MEMBERS CONCERNING FORMAT AND SCENARIO OF COUNCIL MEETING. PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT OF AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND AND UK EMBASSIES HERE, WHICH DEPARTMENT SHARES, IS THAT LAST YEAR'S MEETING WAS JUST RIGHT AND SAME TONE AND APPROACH SHOULD CHARACTERIZE THIS YEAR'S SESSION AS WELL.

3. DEPARTMENT ENDORSES TENTATIVE ARRANGEMENTS DESCRIBED IN POINTS A THROUGH D, PARA 3 OF REFTEL WHICH HAVE BEEN WORKED OUT BETWEEN EMBASSY AND SECGEN. HOWEVER WE ARE CONCERNED THAT PROPOSED ENTOURAGE OF SECGEN (REFTEL, PARA 4) COULD IMPOSE ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL BURDEN WE WOULD NOT WANT TO CARRY THIS YEAR OR IN FUTURE. AS EMBASSY AWARE,

DEPARTMENT FACES NOT ONLY THE PROBLEM OF ESTABLISHING PRECEDENCE BY HAVING SUCCESSIVE MEETINGS IN NEW YORK, BUT ALSO MUST FACE SERIOUS BUDGETARY AND OTHER FINANCIAL PROBLEMS WHICH WILL BE INCREASED IF SEATO MEETING BECOMES LONGER AND MORE COMPLEX.

4. US HAVING HOSTED 18TH COUNCIL MEETING IN NEW YORK ONLY A YEAR AGO, IO/OIC HAS NOT BUDGETED TO HOST ANOTHER MEETING THIS YEAR. MOREOVER, IF, AS SEEMS INCREASINGLY LIKELY, THE MEETING WILL HENCEFORTH TAKE PLACE IN NEW YORK EACH YEAR DURING UNGA, WE NEED NOT ONLY TO ASSURE THAT EXPENSES ARE HELD TO A MINIMUM, BUT THAT DEMANDS ON USUN MISSION SPACE AND STAFF BE HELD DOWN AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, SINCE THEY WILL BE PRE-EMPTED TO A LARGE DEGREE BY DEMANDS OF UNGA. WE HAVE HOWEVER CONFIRMED AVAILABILITY OF USUN CONFERENCE ROOM FOR SEPTEMBER 27.

5. IN VIEW OF GNZ INABILITY TO CHAIR SEATO COUNCIL MEETING, US PREPARED TO DO SO, UNLESS EMBASSY BANGKOK ABLE TO FIND ANOTHER SEATO MEMBER WILLING TO ASSUME CHAIRMANSHIP THIS YEAR. MORE SERIOUS QUESTION IS PROSPECT RAISED BY WELLINGTON'S 1889 THAT GNZ NOT INTENDING TO BE

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REPRESENTED AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL IN NEW YORK.

6. IN ANY EVENT, CHAIRMANSHIP OF US DELEGATION NOT YET DETERMINED, AND WE WILL ADVISE LATER WHETHER IT WILL BE SECRETARY OR DEPUTY SECRETARY. EMBASSY BANGKOK SHOULD MAKE NO COMMITMENT AT COUNCIL REPS MEETING.

7. DEPARTMENT CONCURS WITH EMBASSY CANBERRA (CANBERRA

3619) AND SAIGON (SAIGON 7964) THAT GVN NOT REPEAT NOT BE INVITED AS OBSERVER TO 19TH COUNCIL MEETING.

8. WITH REGARD TO SEC GEN COURTESY CALLS IN WASHINGTON BEFOREHAND, DEPARTMENT WILL ENDEAVOR TO ARRANGE APPOINTMENTS WITH EITHER SECRETARY OR DEPUTY SECRETARY AS WELL AS SECRETARY OF DEFENSE. DEPARTMENT WILL ALSO INQUIRE CONCERNING POSSIBILITY OF APPOINTMENT WITH PRESIDENT OR VICE PRESIDENT, BUT NOT OPTIMISTIC IN VIEW OF FACT THAT APPOINTMENT WITH PRESIDENT LAST YEAR JUSTIFIED ON BASIS THAT SUNTHORN MAKING INITIAL VISIT TO US IN CAPACITY OF SEATO SEC GEN. KISSINGER

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